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*Presented to
Horace J. Smith
The Unitarian Institution.*

THE LIBERTY BELL

German town - Pa.

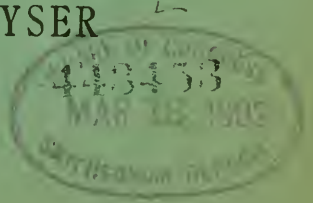
INDEPENDENCE HALL

PHILADELPHIA



BY
CHARLES S. KEYSER

1901





THE LIBERTY BELL
IN THE
PHILADELPHIA BUILDING
OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA INTER-STATE
AND
WEST INDIAN EXPOSITION
CHARLESTON, S. C.

1901-02



James H. Ashbridge
Mayor of Philadelphia.

OFFICIAL
OF THE
TO



ESCORT
BELL
CHARLESTON

HON. SAMUEL H. ASHBRIDGE,
Mayor of Philadelphia

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OF THE
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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GEORGE MCCURDY, *President of Common Council*

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SAMUEL K. STINGER,	SAMUEL P. TOWN.

OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

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R. CORTLAND HERR,	ALEXANDER DEHAVEN,
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WILSON H. BROWN, *Chairman.*

GEORGE G. PIERIE, { *Commissioner of City Property
and Custodian of the Bell.*



*J. Adger Smyth
Mayor of Charleston*



RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF THE BELL
AT CHARLESTON

HON. J. ADGER SMYTH,
Mayor of Charleston.

CHARLESTON CITY COMMISSION

HON. J. ADGER SMYTH, *Chairman,*
Mayor of Charleston

C. S. GADSDEN,

F. Q. ONEILL.

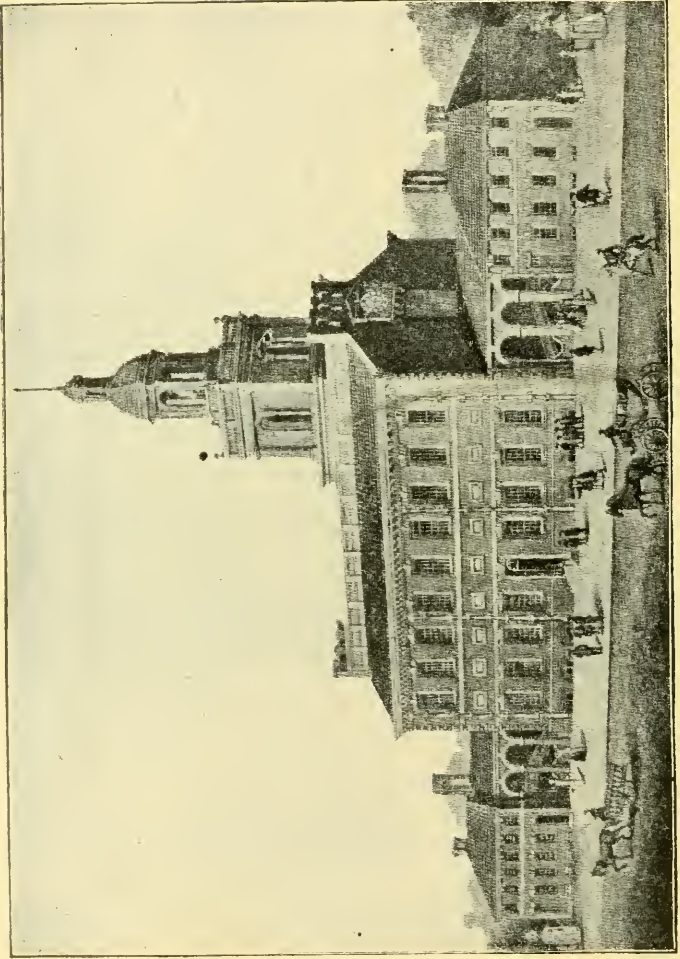
OFFICERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA EXPOSITION

F. W. WAGNER, *President.*

JOHN H. AVERILL, *Director-General.*

GUARD OF THE BELL AT CHARLESTON

of the Reserve Police of Philadelphia

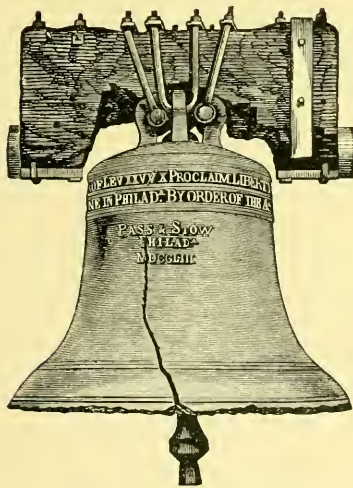


THE STATE HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA.

THE LIBERTY BELL

INDEPENDENCE HALL

PHILADELPHIA



BY
CHARLES S. KEYSER

1901

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1901

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PHILADELPHIA

INDEPENDENCE HALL

Independence Hall, Philadelphia, comprises three main buildings. A central structure—the State House with offices adjoining—and two separate buildings, one erected for the city and the other for the county of Philadelphia.

The central building was designed and built by Andrew Hamilton, a Barrister of Philadelphia. The two others, the lots for which he procured, and for the erection of which he created a trust, were not built until after the close of the Revolution. The whole together has a frontage on Chestnut street of 396 feet, and was at the time of its completion the largest building for State and municipal purposes in the country.

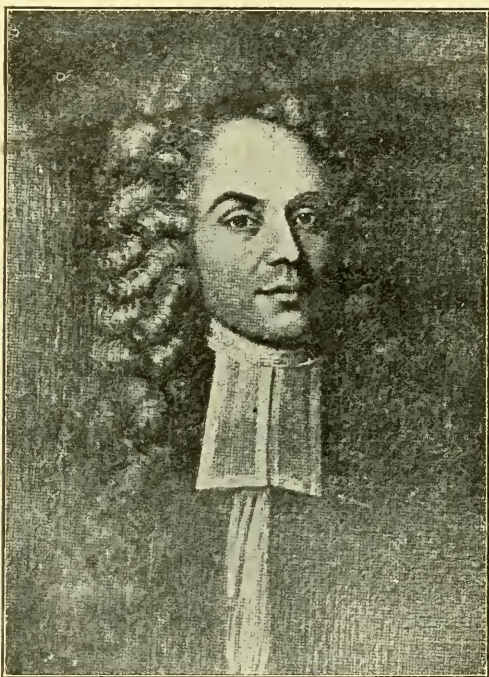
The story of its construction is as follows: On the first of the third month 1729 the representatives, as they styled themselves, of "the free men of Pennsylvania," in General Assembly met, determined to build a house for themselves, having been up to that time obliged to hire private houses for their sittings. The Act in manuscript still exists and is in the handwriting of Andrew Hamilton.

On the 11th of August, 1732, Mr. Hamilton exhibited a plan and elevation of the house or building,—the central building as it now stands, and the same being compared with several other plans and elevations, was approved, and the House, after consideration, resolved, that Mr. Hamilton be the person to superintend and govern the building, and that the House for his trouble would make him compensation.

Mr. Hamilton, to meet the requirements for the better preservation of the public papers of the Province, produced in 1732, on the 23d of March, a plan for the two offices adjoining the State House.

On the 15th of September, 1735, Mr. Hamilton took his seat as President of the Assembly in the State House, then so far finished as to admit of occupancy by that body. The offices adjoining were also almost completed, and the building, offices, and ground vested in Trustees.

On the 20th of 12th month, 1735, Mr. Hamilton conveyed to Trustees two lots, one at the corner of Sixth street and one at the corner of Fifth street, for the City and County of Philadelphia, for the erecting upon the same two buildings by the City and County. "The buildings to be of like form, structure, and dimensions, one for the use of the City for holding its courts, and one for the use of the County for like purposes." In these



ANDREW HAMILTON.

last days of his life work, he thus secured one harmonious design for the whole structure as it now stands.

Sixth month, 11th, 1739, he retired from the service of the Province in a representative capacity by reason of his age and infirmities, but continued in his duties as Superintendent of the State House until his death. On the occasion of his retiring from both the Speakership and membership of the House, he uttered these sentiments, which are worthy of preservation for all time:

"As the service of the country should be the only motive to induce any man to take upon him the country's trust, which none ought to assume who find themselves incapable of giving such a constant attendance as the nature of so great trust requires, and as you are witnesses of the frequent indispositions of body I have so long labored under, particularly during the Winter season (the usual time of doing business here), and being apprehensive that by reason of my age and infirmities, which daily increase, I may be rendered unable to discharge the duty expected from a member of the Assembly, I therefore hope that these considerations alone, were there no others, will appear to you sufficient to justify the determination I am come to, of declining the farther service of the Province in a representative capacity.

"As to my conduct, it is not for me to condemn or to commend it; those who have sat here from time to time, during my standing, and particularly those several gentlemen present who were members when I first came into the House, have the right to judge of my behavior and will censure or approve it as it has deserved. But whatever that may have been, I know my own intentions, and that I ever had at heart the preservation of Liberty—the love of which as it first drew me to, so it constantly prevailed upon me to reside in this Province, though to the manifest prejudice of my fortune."

While still in the completion of this work (1741, Aug. 4) Mr. Hamilton's life work ended. At this time the whole main building as it now stands and the wings were externally complete.

In 1741, November 4th, the tower was raised with the usual jollities on the occasion. In 1742 the offices were entirely finished.

1743, November 14th, the court room (the west chamber) and piazzas between the chief buildings were finished.

In 1745 the Assembly room was finally completed, curtains hung, covers put on the chairs, a press for papers bought, a silver inkstand for the Speaker's table, which is still preserved; two open stoves for burning fuel procured, two pairs of andirons, and two pairs of tongs.

In 1747 the western chamber on the second floor was finished for the Governor's Council. In 1750 a building was carried up on the tower with a suitable place to hang a bell.

The material of the building is brick, stone, marble and wood. The coignés are Westchester serpentine, faded by age; it is a green stone used now in large quantities. The marble came from quarries near the Schuylkill, it is a blue and white marble; the bricks are of the red clay of Philadelphia.

All these have lasted in a remarkable manner, the marble only being in any measure affected by long exposure to the weather. The roof was shingled. All the rafters were of oak and came from near the City; the greater part of these remain. The workmen were of various nationalities.

The central building, the State House, is one hundred and seven feet in length and forty-five in width; the first floor is divided into two rooms, each forty feet square with ceiling twenty feet high; these rooms are divided by a hallway twenty feet wide, extending from north to south through the building to a broad stairway which gives access to the second floor; the room on the east side is on the left and the room on the west side is on the right as you enter from Chestnut street; the second floor is divided into one room called the long room, extending one hundred feet on Chestnut street by twenty feet in width, and a west and east room of the same width on the south side of the building; the ceilings of these rooms are sixteen feet in height; the steps of the stairway are six feet in length with a rise of six inches.

The room on the east side first floor is the Declaration Chamber; on the west side, the Supreme Court room of the Province; the long room on the second floor was the banquetting room for colonial entertainments; the east room on this floor was occupied by the Clerks of Assembly, and the west room by the Governor's Council.*

The County building was begun 1787 and was finished 1789.

The plan of the City building was determined upon in 1775; in 1789 the inhabitants of the City then created a corporation by the name of the Mayor, Aldermen and citizens of Philadelphia, authorized its building, to be a City Hall of the same dimensions and form of the County building, then just finished. The work was forthwith commenced and the building finished in 1791.

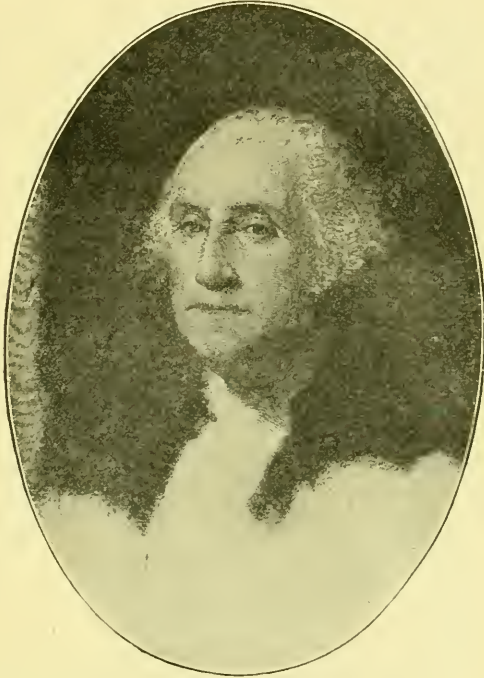
These buildings remain externally substantially as they were built, except that the County building has been lengthened thirty-seven feet; the ground floor was, as first built, in one room, with a vestibule extending along the whole front of the building.

The dimensions of these two buildings were the same—and

* The whole building has the same appearance as in the Revolution, it was a few years since restored throughout by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the City of Philadelphia.

in every particular the external construction in style and material was the same. Each building was fifty feet wide, divided centrally by a doorway, and sixty-five feet eight inches long.

The Congress of the United States occupied the County building from its third session, 6th of December, 1790, until the seat of Government was removed to Washington in 1800; Washington was inaugurated in this building for his second term as



GEORGE WASHINGTON.

President of the United States, March 4th, 1793, and John Adams was inaugurated here for the same office March 4th, 1797, the Representatives in the Congress occupied the lower floor, the Senate occupied the floor of the second story.*

The Supreme Court of the United States held its first session on the second floor of the City building, beginning first Monday, 7th February, 1791; John Jay, John Rutledge and Oliver Ellsworth were the Chief Justices during the period of its occupation, which continued until the 15th of August, 1800.

* This chamber is in the care of the Colonial Dames, who restored it to its original appearance.

THE NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE DECLARATION CHAMBER.

May 10th, 1775, the Continental Congress sat in this room from this date to the close of the Revolution except when in 1776-7 it met in Baltimore, December, January and February, and 1777-8, when the City was in the occupation of the British Army.

June 16th, 1775, Washington accepted in this room his appointment by Congress as General of the Continental Army.

July 4th, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted. It was also signed in this room.

July 9th, 1778, the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the States were adopted and signed in this room.

November 3d, 1781, the twenty-four standards taken at the surrender of Yorktown were laid at the feet of Congress and of his Excellency, the Ambassador of France, in this room.

September 17th, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was adopted and signed in this room.

THE LIBERTY BELL.

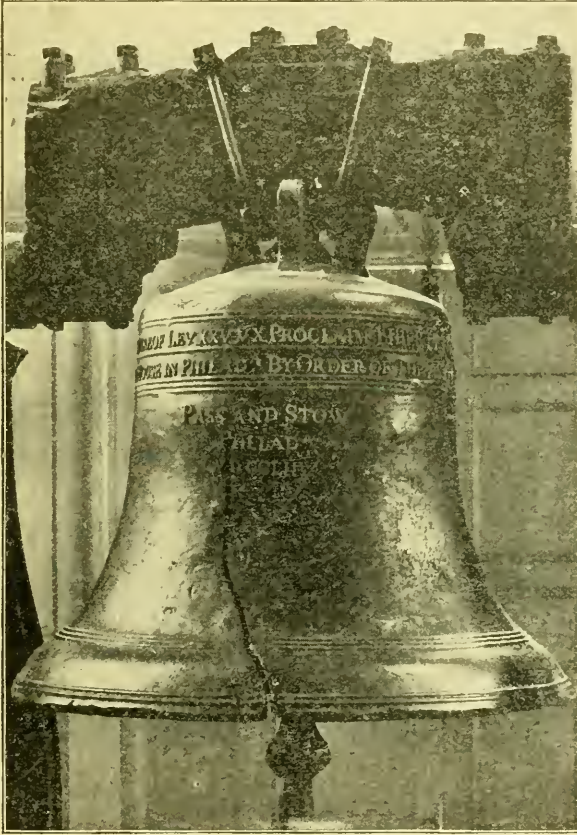
"And proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you."

AMONG the bells of the world no one has been associated with events of as great import to humanity as the Liberty Bell.

Its prophetic inscription, its appeals to the people to assemble for the redress of their grievances, and its defiant clangor that memorable day of the Proclamation of our Independence, its rejoicing pealings over the completed work of the Revolution, and its last tolling over the dead of the nation, gives its story an abiding interest to the nation and the world.

The Assembly of Pennsylvania customarily had in its possession, a bell for official purposes, from the organization of the Province. Its ordinary use was to call its members together, morning and afternoon during its sessions, and to announce the hour of the opening of the Courts of Justice to the people.

Its most stately use was to announce the proclamation of the accession of a member of the royal family to the throne and the proclamation of the treaties of peace and declarations of war. The bell, which following this customary use, announced the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence, was ordered by



THE LIBERTY BELL.

the superintendents of the State House, Isaac Norris, Thomas Leach and Edward Warner, from the agent of the Province in London, Robert Charles, in 1751. It was required to weigh about two thousand pounds and to be lettered with the following words "well shaped, in large letters:" "By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House in the city of

Philadelphia, 1752," and underneath, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

It was cast by Thomas Lester, Whitechapel, London. The Bell arrived at the end of August, 1752, and was hung. Early in September, however, it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence and thereupon recast by Pass & Stow, two "ingenious workmen," in Philadelphia,* and hung April 17th, 1753. In the recasting the same metal was used with the addition of an ounce and a half of copper to the pound to make the bell less brittle. The same form and lettering were preserved with the substitution of the names and place and year of recasting it now bears. It was recast by them, the first casting not being satisfactory, and the same year again hung in the State House.†

The Bell is twelve feet in circumference around the lip and seven feet six inches around the crown; it is three feet following the line of the bell from the lip to the crown, and two feet three inches over the crown. It is three inches thick in the thickest part near the lip, and one and a quarter inches thick in the thinnest part toward the crown. The length of the clapper is three feet two inches, and the weight of the whole is two thousand and eighty pounds.

It is lettered in a line encircling its crown with the sentence:—

PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL
THE INHABITANTS THEREOF, LEV. XXV, V, X.

Immediately under this sentence, also in a line encircling its crown:—

BY ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF PEN-
SYLVANIA FOR THE STATE HOUSE IN PHILADA.

PASS AND STOW.

PHILADA.

MDCCLIII.

* NOTE.—"Philadelphia, June 7, 1753—Last week was raised and fixed in the State House steeple the new great bell cast here by Pass & Stow weighing 2080 pounds with this motto: 'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.'" *Lev. 25, 10.—Maryland Gazette*, July 7, 1753.

† The Bell as last placed in the steeple remained there until the steeple was taken down, July 16, 1781; it was then lowered into the tower where it remained until 1846; it was then taken inside the Declaration Chamber below and remained there until 1876. It was then placed in its old frame in the hallway and remained there until 1877 when it was hung from the ceiling of the hallway by a chain of thirteen links. It was returned again to the Declaration Chamber and placed in a glass case the following year and in 1896 it was taken back to the hallway in the same case where it still remains.

The case in which it is kept is four-sided, of heavy plate glass framed in white oak; each plate is four feet wide and seven feet high; the entire case is ten feet high. The Bell is suspended in it from the old yoke on which it hung in the Revolution; it rests on each side on two bronze uprights. The whole stands on a movable platform. When it rang for the Declaration it hung in a heavy wooden frame; the frame was ordered by the Assembly when the Bell arrived in 1753, it was taken down from the steeple with the Bell in 1781 (July 16) and placed in the tower below where it still remains. A leaden canopy was over the Bell and frame while it hung in the steeple.

The model of this Bell was one cast by order of Henry III. in the early part of the thirteenth century in memory of Edward the Confessor, which was hung in the clock tower of Westminster, and was named St. Edward, but generally known as the "great Tom of Westminster."

The Ringers of the Bell were Edward Kelly, 1753-5; David Edward, 1755-8; Andrew McNair, 1759-76 (September 15), the Ringer of the Proclamation of Independence. The last Ringer of the Bell was Thomas Downing, 1827-36.

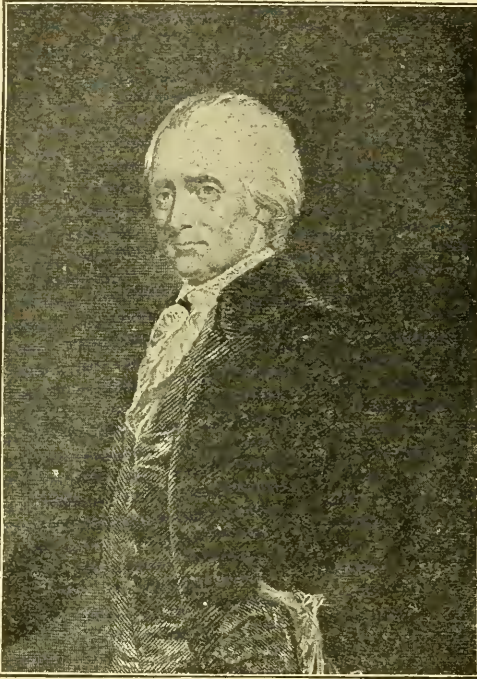
At the time of ordering the bell from Thomas Lester, the Assembly reserved the right to send the bell they then had in use to the firm in part payment for the new bell, as appears from a resolution of the Assembly, August 13, 1754. They, however, eventually determined to keep the old bell for public use and pay the whole charge for the new Bell. This old bell was again used when the Liberty Bell was taken down into the tower in 1781, and from that time on probably struck the hours, as no account of the purchase of any other bell appears in their proceedings.

The Liberty Bell has been removed from the building on four occasions: the first, during the Revolution, September, 1777, and when taken from the city to New Orleans, January 23, 1885; Chicago, April 25, 1893; Atlanta, October 24, 1895.

The frame has never been taken from the building from the time it was first placed there in 1753, except for a short time during the restoration in 1898, until the present time.

THE RESOLUTION FOR INDEPENDENCE.

June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee offered in Congress his resolution for the Independence of the Colonies:



RICHARD HENRY LEE.

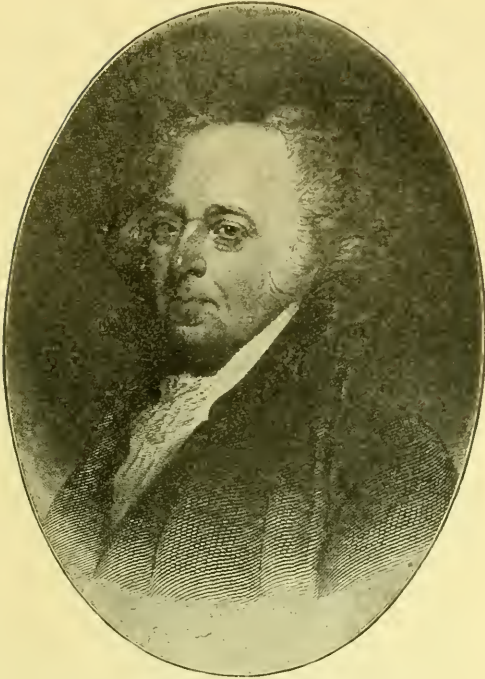
Resolved. That these colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved.

“That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign alliances.

“That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the several Colonies for their consideration and approval.”

This resolution with notes made during its passage in the handwriting of Richard Henry Lee is now in the Museum of Revolutionary Relics in the State House, Philadelphia.

John Adams seconded the resolution and was one of its most strenuous supporters, but so great was the individual responsibility considered, in introducing it in case of its failure in adop-

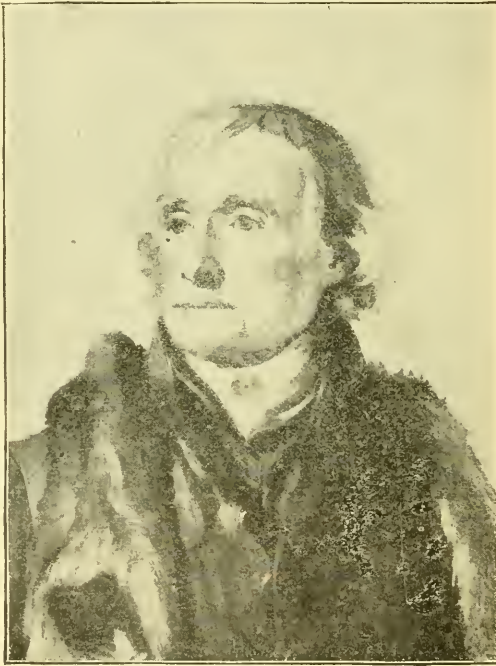


JOHN ADAMS.

tion, that neither the name of the mover nor the seconder appears on the journal. In order that no time might be lost in the event of its passage, a committee of five consisting of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston was appointed to prepare a declaration in conformity with it. They were chosen by ballot on the 11th of June; Thomas Jefferson was made its chairman. On the 28th of June, the committee submitted a draft of the paper and the first day of July was fixed for final action upon it. On the 2d of July the resolution for independency was passed finally. Congress then resolved to take into farther consideration the Declaration, and on the 3d and 4th of July, it was debated, paragraph by paragraph. July 4th, 1776, in the evening, the Declaration was adopted. To that hour the colonies had been united in a common spirit of resistance to its exactions, but kept a wavering loyalty to the British crown; from that hour, a line of separation broke irregularly through all orders and conditions of the

people, wholly revolutionary. It was no longer a question of the rights of the Englishmen or their representatives, but "the dissolution" by the various nationalities here, the very large majority of the whole population, of "all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain" and "all allegiance to the British Crown."

The same evening Congress ordered that the Declaration be authenticated and printed; that the committee who brought in the Declaration be ordered to correct the press.*



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

On the 5th of July Congress resolved that copies of the Declaration be sent to the several assemblies, conventions and councils of safety and the several officers of the Continental troops, and that it be proclaimed in each of the United States and at the head of the army. These copies were printed and ready for distribution on the 6th.†

* Am. Arch. V. Series. Vol. 3, p. 15.

† These copies bore only the signature of the President, John Hancock, and the attestation of the Secretary, Charles Thomson.

That day the Committee of Safety in Philadelphia sent the copies they received to the committees of Bucks, Chester, Northumberland, Lancaster and Berks Counties, with a letter requesting that the same be published the following Monday, the 8th instant. They then ordered that the Sheriff of Philadelphia read or cause to be read and proclaimed this Declaration at the State House on that day, and that he cause all his officers and the constables of the City to attend the reading.

They further resolved that every member of the committee in or near the city be ordered to meet at their chamber before twelve o'clock that day to proceed to the State House, where the Declaration was to be proclaimed, and that the Committee of Inspection be forthwith requested to attend the proclamation at the State House. On the same day, the Committee of Inspection having received and accepted the invitation, appointed nine associators to go into the State House on that day and take from the King's Court, the King's arms, and place them on a pile of casks to be erected on the commons for the purpose of a bonfire.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776,

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of Human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are Created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these, are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That, to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that, whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing

its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and, accordingly, all Experience hath shown, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated injuries and Usurpations, all having, in direct Object, the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly Firmness, his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused, for a long Time after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without and Convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our Legislature.

He has affected to render the Military independent of, and superior to, the Civil Power.

He has combined, with others, to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefit of Trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offenses:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering, fundamentally, the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens, taken Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare is an undistinguished Destruction of all Ages, Sexes, and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress, in the most humble Terms; our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren.

We have warned them, from Time to Time, of Attempts made by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the Ties of our common Kindred, to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the

Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connexion between them and the State of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And, for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

Attest:

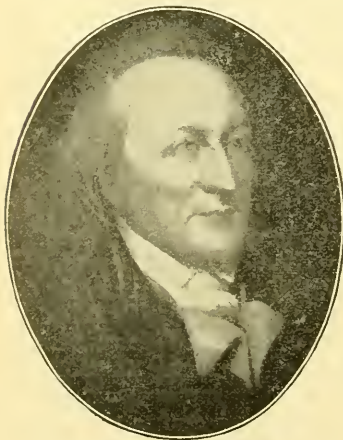
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE DECLARATION.

On the morning of the 8th, between the hours of eleven and twelve, the great Bell in the State House rang the proclamation. At eleven o'clock the Committee of Safety assembled in their chamber (the Lodge), to attend the proclamation. There were

present George Clymer, Chairman, Joseph Parker, James Biddle, David Rittenhouse, Owen Biddle, Thomas Wharton, Jr., Michael Hillegas, John Cadwalader, George Gray, Samuel Howell, Samuel Morris, James Mease and John Nixon.

At the same hour the Committee of Inspection met at the Philosophical Hall and proceeded in a body to join the Committee of Safety. The two bodies, the Committee of Safety preceding, then went two by two in proces-



GEORGE CLYMER.

sion to the State House yard. The order of the procession was:—first, the constables with their staffs; the Sheriff, William Dewees, and the coroner, Robert Jewell, and their deputies carrying the white wands of their office; the members of the Committee of Safety as named above, preceded by the Chairman, followed these, and after them the Committee of Inspection in a body.

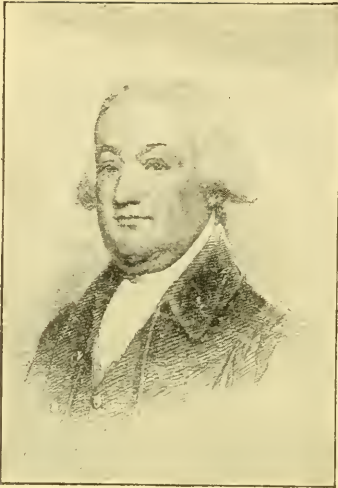
After these ordinarily, according to the custom of the times, would have followed the "town's gentlemen;" these were conspicuous by their absence; some were sequestered in their mansions, others were in the neighboring jails.

That day the colonies were in the midst of the Revolution.

The upper rooms of the State House were magazines for arms; east and west of it, in barracks, were munitions of war. The yard was enclosed with a wall, a great gateway on its south side. Separated by a street's width from the gateway ran the dark walls of a prison overlooking the yard, from the windows of its upper stories. Cannon were ranged along the sides of the yard; guards of soldiers were near them. Wagons carrying ammunition, powder, and military stores to the city were standing here and there. Some trees were along its borders, notably two willow trees hanging over the great gate; for the rest, it was rough ground, broken by the ruts of the wagon wheels and the hoof prints of the horses.

The stand from which the Declaration was to be read was a platform built out from an old observatory toward the east side of the yard; it was surrounded by a railing and reached by a stairway from the ground; all around it was open to the sunlight.

There was a large assemblage of the people there, resolute men, who had, that morning, been summoned by the ringing of the great Bell, for their Independence, as they had been many times before for the redress of their grievances under the British crown. Through the grated windows of the prison, men looked down on the crowd with hatred, contempt or indifference; a number of respectable citizens, in the new nomenclature of the times "Tories," had been haled there by the Committees of the people; their names, titles and lineage preserved at the time, have long years ago passed into oblivion. With these were debtors, prisoners of war, and felons of all grades.



JOHN NIXON

Passing through the assemblage, the Committee reached, by the stairway, the platform; the Bell ceased ringing. John Nixon, to whom the Sheriff had delegated the reading, stood up in the silence; he was a strong voiced and open featured man; he had been and remained true to the struggle to his life's close. He began the reading with the words "In Congress July 4, 1776. A Declaration of the Representatives of the United States of America." This opening sentence was received with applause and throughout the whole reading, which was so audible as to

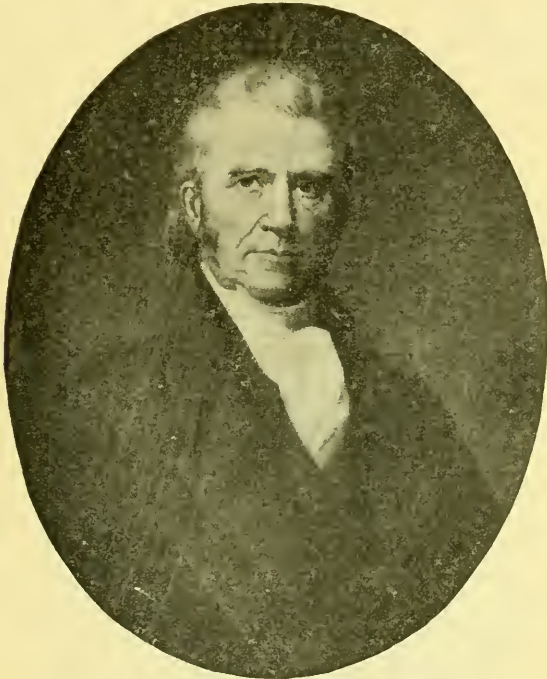
be heard distinctly beyond the borders of the yard, there was repeated applause. At its close, as was written at the time by one of the members of the Committee of Inspection, Christopher Marshall, then present, "it was accepted with general applause and heartfelt satisfaction." The stalwart old Ringer* rang the great Bell once more. The audience dispersed to their homes. In the evening the regulators appointed on the 6th instant by the Inspection Committee, took down their late king's coat of arms from the hall in the State House where the said king's courts had been held to that hour, and carried them thence to the common, where piling casks one upon the other and these arms upon them, set all on fire and burned them to ashes amid the acclamations of a great crowd of citizens. It was a long day of sunshine, and "the night," as it was also written at the time, "was starlight and beautiful."

From this date the Bell continued to record the events of the Revolution and the after time of peace, to 1835. At that date its mission was ending, the independence of the country had been firmly established and the great actors in the drama had passed away.

Jefferson, Washington, Lee, Adams, Franklin, Morris and

* Andrew McNair—he rang the Bell during all the Revolutionary era—1759-76—it was his last ringing of the Bell, his work terminated 16 September, 1776.

Henry were dead, and of all of that immortal list of names, the signers of the Declaration, not one remained. John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, a soldier in that revolution, survived; he sat in judgment on the finished work and gave the measure of its strength and power for the people.



JOHN MARSHALL.

July 8, 1835.—THE BELL TOLLED FOR THE LAST TIME. John Marshall died in Philadelphia on the 6th day of July, 1835; his remains were on the day of the anniversary of the first proclamation of the Declaration to the people borne to Virginia for burial, and during the funeral solemnities the bell, while slowly tolling, parted through its great side, and was silent henceforth, forever.

It had lived out its life as men live out their lives, its work was done. It had called the people together many years, to preserve their rights under the British crown. It had rung out its clamorous defiance on that great day of the proclamation of the

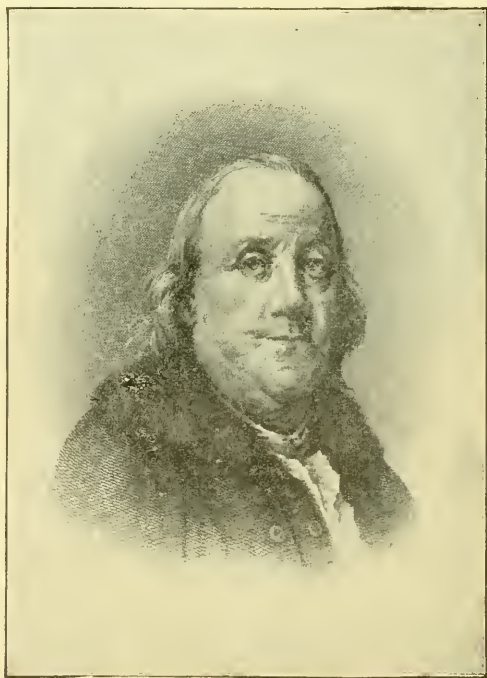
Declaration of their independence. It had glorified all the anniversaries of that independence. It had bewailed the great dead of the nation. Henceforth it remains in its ancient place, THE SILENT SYMBOL OF LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND.

THE NOTABLE EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BELL.

August 27, 1753, the Bell called the members of the Assembly together for the first time in the State House.

May 17, 1755, again when the Assembly declared "they would not make laws by direction."

February 3, 1757, when they sent "MR. FRANKLIN" "HOME TO ENGLAND" to solicit redress for their grievances.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

October 26, 1764, when they sent "BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ESQ.," to "GREAT BRITAIN" to transact the affairs of the Province.

September 9, 1765, when the Assembly considered a resolution for a Congress of the colonies. A great landing stage of the Revolution.

October 5, 1765, "muffled and tolled," it called the meeting together when the ship, Royal Charlotte, bearing stamps for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware reached Philadelphia. At this meeting the demand was made and *enforced* that the stamps should not be landed but transferred to his Majesty's royal man-of-war, the "Sardine," to be returned to England.

October 31, 1765, "muffled and tolled," it rang all day long when the Stamp Act was put in operation. Some of the people stayed in their houses mourning the death of liberty; others in the street, met together, and burned the stamp papers at the coffee-house.

April 25, 1768, it assembled the people in the State House yard to protest against the Acts of Parliament closing the planing and slitting mills and the manufacture of iron and steel in Pennsylvania; the affixing the King's arrow on pine trees, and the cutting off of the trade of the colonies in all parts of the world.

July 30, 1768, it called a meeting in the State House yard in which it was said that "the Parliament of Great Britain has reduced the people here to the level of slaves."

December 27, 1773, it called together the largest meeting that had ever assembled in the State House yard. At this meeting it was resolved that the ship "Polly," then coming up to the City with tea and a miscellaneous cargo, should not be permitted to land. The committee appointed at this meeting, followed by the citizens generally, sent the whole cargo with the tea, the captain and the consignee, from the wharf at Arch street, to its "old Rotterdam place in Leadenhall street, London." They would not have "the detestable tea funnelled down their throats with Parliament's duty mixed with it," they said at this meeting, and that "no power on earth had the right to tax them without their consent."

June 1, 1774, "muffled and tolled," it rang on the announcement of the closing of the port of Boston. A meeting held in the Square protested against this action of Parliament.

June 18, 1774, it called a meeting to relieve the Boston sufferers.*

April 25, 1775, after the battle of Lexington, it called eight thousand of the citizens by actual computation, to the Square, who pledged themselves to the cause of liberty.

July 8, 1776, it proclaimed the Declaration of Independence.

July 4, 1777, it commemorated the first anniversary of the passage of the Declaration.

* The subscription raised in Philadelphia for this purpose amounted to £2000. The Friends of Philadelphia Meeting subscribed £2540 in gold. York County £246 8s. 10d., Salem County £420. The City and Liberties 1160 barrels of flour, 100 hogsheads of sugar also, went from the port of Philadelphia collected in St. Croix and 1001 barrels of rice from St. John's Parish, Georgia.

October 24, 1781, it announced the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.*

November 27, 1781, it welcomed the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the Free States to the City.

April 16, 1783, it proclaimed the Treaty of Peace.

December 26, 1799, it rang during the funeral solemnities following the death of Washington.

September 29, 1824, it welcomed Lafayette to the City.

July 4, 1826, it ushered in the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Declaration, "the year of jubilee" written in the passage which gave its motto to the Bell.

July 24, 1826, it commemorated the death of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

July 21, 1834, it commemorated the death of Lafayette.

THE ITINERARIES OF THE BELL.

PHILADELPHIA TO ALLENTOWN, 1777.



CARRYING THE BELL TO ALLENTOWN.

The first journey of the Bell from the State House was for its preservation. The 26th of September, 1777, the headquarters of the British Army were at the State House and their Artillery Park was in

* This surrender ended British domination over the colonies. "The requisites for the campaign ending at Yorktown, were 70 to 80 pieces of battering cannon and 100 of field artillery, together with provisions and pay for the army. The expenditures on these accounts amounted to \$1,400,000, and were provided for on the credit of Robert Morris, a merchant of Philadelphia. There was no money in the War Office chest. The credit of the colonies was gone." Mr. Morris had given his name to the great Declaration; he repeated the signature on his notes during the Revolution to its close, which were all, inclusive of the above, at maturity, paid. His diary, now in the possession of the Government, is one long record of his struggle to feed his troops and support Washington.

the State House yard. Some days before the entry of this army into the City, the Bell had been taken down from the steeple. The representatives of the people had removed from the State House and the British Army from that time until the following spring, in rout and revelry ruled the City. The State House became a hospital for our wounded and a morgue for the dead.

The Bell was conveyed with the whole heavy baggage of the Army in a continuous train of 700 wagons guarded by two hundred North Carolina and Virginia soldiers, to Allentown. In a diary kept in Bethlehem during the year 1777, this incident of the journey is preserved: "September 29, the wagon which conveyed the State House Bell broke down in the street and had to be unloaded."

The Bell was away from the City from 18th September, 1777, to June 27, 1778. Its itinerary was a very brief one: Philadelphia to Germantown, to Bethlehem, to Allentown. While in Allentown it was in the Zion's Church.

PHILADELPHIA TO NEW ORLEANS, 1885.

LEAVE PHILADELPHIA, PA., Friday, January 23, at 10 A. M.; arrive Lancaster, Friday, January 23d, 12 M.; arrive Harrisburg, Friday, January 23d, at 1.20 P. M.; arrive at Altoona, Friday, January 23d, at 5 P. M.; arrive at Pittsburg, Friday, January 23d, at 9.50 P. M.; arrive at Columbus, Ohio, Saturday, January 24th, at 5.30 A. M.; arrive at Cincinnati, Saturday, January 24th, at 10.30 A. M.; arrive at Louisville, Ky., January 24th, at 6 P. M.; arrive Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, January 25th, at 8 A. M.; arrive at Birmingham, Ala., Sunday, January 25th, at 3 P. M.; arrive at Montgomery, Sunday, January 25th, at 6 P. M.; arrive at Mobile, Monday, January 26th, at 8 A. M.; arrive at New Orleans, La., Monday, January 26th, at 12 M.

This itinerary was marked by patriotic demonstrations in the cities and at all the intermediate stations—ringing of church bells, booming cannon, music, shouting of the people. When darkness came on and all through the night in Western Pennsylvania bonfires on the hills, furnace fires, streams of flame from the wells, long lines of torches at the stations, lighted its way. When the morning broke crowds of people were waiting, at the stations, and all through the day it was the same—one continuous ovation along the swiftly-moving line of its journey, night and day.

Never will be forgotten by those who made the journey, the groups of farmers with their wives and children, the miners with their lamps, the groups of black laborers standing together in silence, conscious that the mission of the Bell was for them in the later time as it was for us in the Revolution.

Beauvoir, the home of the ex-President of the Confederacy, was the last stopping place of its journey; Mr. Davis came from a sick bed to

look on the Bell for the last time. "I thank you," he said, "Mayor Guillothe, and you, gentlemen of the Committee, for this privilege, and most sincerely I trust that your anticipations of the harmonizing tendencies of this journey may be in every respect fully realized. I believe," he continued, "that the time has come when reason should be substituted for passion, and when men should be able to do justice to each other." Turning from the assemblage to the Bell, he said: "You, sacred organ, gave voice to the proudest declaration that a handful of men ever made when they faced the greatest military power on the globe, when they declared to all the world their inalienable rights, and staked life, liberty, and property in defense of their declaration. Then it was with your clear tones you sent notice to all who were willing to live or die for liberty and felt that the day was at hand when every patriot must do a patriot's duty." Bending his uncovered head before it, he said: "Glorious old Bell! the son of a Revolutionary soldier bows in reverence before you."

From Beauvoir the car went on directly to New Orleans—the city of the final struggle with the British throne—where the day of its arrival was made a legal holiday, and a great multitude of people welcomed its coming.

It was accompanied by Wm. B. Smith, then the Mayor of Philadelphia, with a committee of Councils as its custodian through the whole journey.

PHILADELPHIA TO CHICAGO, 1893.

LEAVE PHILADELPHIA, PA., Tuesday, April 25th, at 10 A. M., arrive Harrisburg, Tuesday, April 25th, at 1.15 P. M.; arrive Erie, Wednesday, April 26th, 4 A. M.; arrive Corry, 1.30 P. M.; arrive Oil City, Wednesday, April 26th, 3.25 P. M.; arrive Pittsburg, Wednesday, April 26th, 7.30 P. M.; arrive Cleveland, Thursday, April 27th, 12 M.; arrive Columbus, Thursday, April 27th, 8 P. M.; arrive Indianapolis, Friday, April 28th, 5 A. M.; arrive Chicago, Friday, April 28th, 9 P. M.

As it was on the former journey, from the day the Bell left its place in the Hall of our Independence, marked by a great demonstration of patriotic pride and solicitude for its care, to the day it arrived in Chicago, the journey was a continuous ovation, crowded with never-to-be-forgotten incidents at every stopping place along the whole thousand miles of the counties and States which were, when it first rang, ^{one} unbroken wilderness. There were the same groups of farmers and miners; the same, and even greater, crowds at the stations, but more notably among them on this occasion were the school children, many thousands in every State along the line of the journey; some to follow it with longing eyes as it swiftly passed, some to surround it when it stopped and, with armfuls of flowers, to wreath around it the expression of their childish love and reverence. The air was filled with their songs at some of these stations.

Indianapolis was the last stopping place before entering Chicago, and here the then last survivor of the ex-Presidents of the nation welcomed the Bell. Standing in the midst of a great group of these children—twelve thousand of them, of the common schools of that city—Mr. Harrison said to the Committee: "I thank you for the privilege you have given us to see this sacred Bell, and rejoice with you that the patriotic demonstrations of this journey have been greater even than the former. This I believe, gentlemen," he said, "is the result of the marvelous development of the general education of the incoming generation, upon which rests the perpetuity of our institutions themselves, for what the fortress was to former civilizations the school house is to ours; established in every part of our country and for every one of its population, the flag of the nation floating over every one."

Mr. Harrison then, looking out over the great throng of the people surrounding the central group of the eager, happy children, said: "This old Bell was cast in England, but it was recast in America. It was when this was done that it clearly and to all the world proclaimed the right of self government and the equal rights of man, and therein it is a type of what our institutions are doing for the immigration from all lands who heard its tones over the water a century ago, and who come here to be recast, as it were, into the citizenship of the nation. I will say no more. The Bell itself is here, repeating to us through all its silence the great story of the nation."

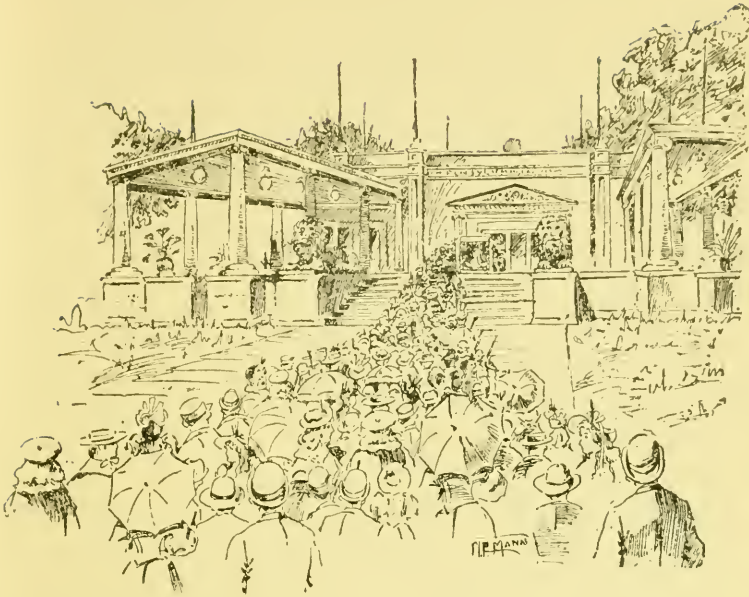
At Chicago the final demonstration was among the greatest of the events of that assemblage of the nations. Its return to Philadelphia was marked by the most impressive ceremonies, the military and civic bodies of the city and the whole municipality being represented in the escort bearing it home.

PHILADELPHIA TO ATLANTA, 1895.

LEAVE PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Friday, October 4th, 1895, 8.00 A. M.; pass Chester, Pa., 8.31 A. M.; arrive Wilmington, Del., 8.53 A. M.; arrive Elkton, Md., 9.22 A. M.; arrive Baltimore, Md., 10.44 A. M.; arrive Washington, D. C., 12.17 P. M.; arrive Alexandria, Va., 2.15 P. M.; arrive Quantico, Va., 3.10 P. M.; arrive Fredericksburg, Va., 3.53 P. M.; arrive Milford, Va., 5.15 P. M.; arrive Doswell, Va., 5.52 P. M.; arrive Ashland, Va., 6.07 P. M.; arrive Richmond, Va., 7.13 P. M. Saturday, October 5th, 1895, leave Richmond, Va., 8.00 A. M.; arrive Petersburg, Va., 9.00 A. M.; arrive Nottoway Court House, Va., 11.20 A. M.; arrive Crewe, Va., 11.40 A. M.; arrive Farmville, Va., 12.35 P. M.; arrive Lynchburg, Va., 2.30 P. M.; arrive Bedford, Va., 4.25 P. M.; arrive Roanoke, Va., 5.40 P. M.; arrive Christiansburg, Va., 9.10 A. M.; arrive Wytheville, Va., 11.00 A. M.; arrive Glade Spring, Va., 12.30 P. M.; East Radford, Va., 9.40 A. M.; arrive Wytheville, Va., 11.00 A. M.;

arrive Glade Spring, Va., 12.30 P. M.; arrive Bristol, Tenn., eastern time, 1.30 P. M.; central time, 2.30 P. M.; arrive Johnson City, Tenn., 3.40 P. M.; arrive Greenville, Tenn., 4.47 P. M.; arrive Morristown, Tenn., 5.50 P. M.; arrive Knoxville, Tenn., 7.00 P. M. Monday, October 7th, arrive Loudon, Tenn., 8.50 A. M.; arrive Athens, Tenn., 9.35 A. M.; arrive Cleveland, Tenn., 10.25 A. M.; arrive Chattanooga, Tenn., 11.30 A. M.; arrive Dalton, Ga., 8.50 A. M.; arrive Rome, Ga., 10.45 A. M.; arrive Atlanta, Ga. (central time), 2.00 P. M., October 8th.

Going and returning the Bell received from every city equal honor. Men, women and children filled every cross-road. At Petersburg they were officially welcomed. At Roanoke, all business was suspended; many thousands were gathered there and a platoon of soldiers guarded the Bell during the night. At Bedford, the whole population were grouped beneath spreading trees that lined the railroad track. At Lynchburg, the Council of the city received the Bell. A cannon gave the presidential salute. Twenty thousand people were gathered there in holiday attire from all the surrounding country. At Rome, the children were given a holiday and a great throng with flags and music welcomed the Bell. At Richmond, the capital of the State, a great ovation was given, going and returning. At Greensboro, two thousand school children welcomed it. It was taken to Guilford Court House battle ground. At Athens, Knoxville, and Chattanooga, these welcomings were repeated. At Cleveland, the girl graduates, wearing gowns and mortar boards, one hundred of them, received the Bell. Seldom has a living man, whatever his place, been welcomed as this mute witness of our nation's great deliverance. At Atlanta, the streets through which it passed were thronged with people; the Bell itself was covered with flowers thrown upon it during the route. As it neared the grounds it passed through a solid wall of cheering people. Upon its entry into the grounds, Piedmont Park, it was accompanied by a military procession; the Pennsylvania Building, before which it was placed, was thronged with children; children were clambering over the park ground fences; they were on the streets, in the trees, and everywhere where foothold could be obtained; the roadway was so thronged here that the wagon passed along very slowly. Old people were among the groups whose grandfathers had been in the Revolution that Bell had proclaimed. So many thousands together made a most memorable spectacle. At the stand a prayer was said very earnestly and solemnly; the children,



THE VAST THROG PASSING BY LIBERTY BELL IN ITS NEW RESTING PLACE AT PIEDMONT PARK.

two thousand of them, broke out into songs. Words of welcome, appropriate to the occasion, were given by Porter King, the Mayor of the city, who presented Charles F. Warwick, Mayor of Philadelphia, as the custodian of the Bell. Mr. Warwick said, in the course of an address remarkable for its earnestness and eloquence: "WE HOLD THIS BELL IN TRUST FOR THE NATION; we confide it to your care." Governor Atkinson, in his reply, said "that that trust would be well reposed on them; that none were more sensible than the people of that State that in their keeping was the most precious relic of the nation." The formal ceremonies over, the women and children were given the first place around it; among these, a blind boy was lifted to it and read with his fingers the inscription.

NOTE.—The Resolutions for Independence on p. 14 are printed from the original copy now in the Museum of Revolutionary Relics in the State House.

The Declaration of Independence on p. 17 is printed from the original Broadside from which it was read in the State House yard, July 8, 1776, and now in the possession of Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison.

This Declaration with the style and title made "unanimous," was on the 19th of July ordered to be engrossed and signed by the members. This was done August 2d. Some signatures were, however, appended at a later date—Matthew Thornton and Thomas McKean among these. The engrossed copy, with the whole number—56 signatures—is now in the Department of State, Washington.

"The notable events," p. 10 and p. 24, and "The Proclamation," p. 20, are compiled entirely from original records, documents and accounts written at the time of their occurrence.

CHARLES S. KEYSER.

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